

15. RECORD OF THE ROCK-LIZARD, *PSAMMOPHILUS BLANFORDANUS* (STOLICZKA) (SAURIA: AGAMIDAE) IN ARAKU VALLEY, EASTERN GHATS (ANDHRA PRADESH), INDIA

In the course of extensive faunistic investigations carried out by the junior author from March through April 1979, two agamid lizards were picked up from the rocks in Araku forest situated at an elevation of 1000 m. The time of capture was 14.00 hr. Of the two specimens in the series, the larger (89+192 mm) is a male and the smaller (65+135 mm) is female.

The junior author saw several pairs of this

lizard on rocks and bushes in Araku forest and noted that the head and fore-part of the males were scarlet-red in colour indicating that they were breeding males.

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16. A NOTE ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF *BARKUDIA INSULARIS* ANNANDALE, A RARE LIMBLESS LIZARD FROM ORISSA

The limbless lizard, *Barkudia insularis* Annandale, was originally reported by Annandale (1917) on a single specimen dug up by Gravely from loose earth at the root of a banyan tree at Barkuda Island in Chilka Lake, Orissa in July, 1916. Later in the rainy season of 1919 Gravely sighted (Annandale 1927) another specimen in the same locality and attempted to catch it but failed due to the rapidity with which the skink burrowed into the earth among the roots of a fig-tree, only the tail remaining in the hands of Dr. Gravely. A third specimen was obtained from the same locality by O. B. Chhotani of the Zoological Survey of India. For a long time the species was believed to be confined to Barkuda island, till Dr. P. N. Ganapati, Professor of Zoology, Andhra University, recorded the species from the

Andhra University Campus at Waltair in 1952 (Ganapati & Krishnan 1952). A recent find of this skink from the Nandankanan Biological Park, 15 km. north east of Bhubaneswar in Orissa, however, shows that the species may have much wider distribution than hitherto known.

In all four specimens were collected from this locality by one of us (LNA), two on 2-11-1973, one on 15-8-78 and the fourth on 7-9-78. The first two, one of which was collected from below the mud of an almost dry tank, were examined and measured.

The limbless lizard, like uropeltid snakes, is a burrowing form and presumably nocturnal in habit. This may account for the rare frequency of its collection. According to Gravely it is a very fast burrower and thus hard

to catch. Because of its burrowing habits it may not be easily seen during dry season when the individuals may go deeper in the burrow and not come up frequently. Most of the specimens of this species were collected (or spotted) near about during the rainy season when the burrows get frequently inundated compelling the lizards to come up.

From the records of the species it appears that this is distributed along the coastal belt in Orissa and Andhra Pradesh.

The type collection on which Annandale (1917) based the description of the this genus seems to have been lost in the Varuna flood in 1943 when the Zoological Survey of India was temporarily shifted to Varanasi.

*Material examined*: 2 examples; Reg. No. 23659; Loc: Nandankanan Biological Park,

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December 28, 1979.

Barang, Dist. Cuttack, Orissa; Coll.: L. N. Acharjyo; date: 2-11-1973.

*Measurements*: Snout to vent 12.5 mm, Tail 7.5 mm, Breadth 6.7 mm. and Snout to vent 15 mm, Tail 8.7 mm, Breadth 7.7 mm.

The blunt snout (dorsoventrally flattened) and tail (rounded at the tip) have earned the name "DEEMUNDIA" (two-headed) to this lizard locally in Orissa. It is cream-coloured with six prominent dorsal, broken up lines, between the back of head and tip of tail. Similar, but faint, spotted lines are present on the flank on both sides. The head and terminal 30 mm. of the tail tip are brown in one specimen; in the other only the head is brown and the six longitudinal spotted lines are continued upto the tip of the tail. Underside in both is cream coloured.

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17. COMMENTS ON THE FIRST RECORD OF *BOTIA* (PISCES: COBITIDAE) FROM THE WESTERN GHATS BY RAO & YAZDANI

(With a text-figure)

The only species of *Botia* we had come across in Maharashtra State was the striped loach, *Botia striata kolhapurensis*. *Botia*

*striata* was first described by Rao (1920) from the river Thunga, Shimoga town in Karnataka State. Kulkarni (1951) reported the